

Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) Membership Balance Plan

Please read the Federal Advisory Committee Membership Balance Plan Guidance prior to completing this form

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
(1) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE NAME <i>State the legal name of the FAC</i>
Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council
(2) AUTHORITY <i>Identify the authority for establishing the FAC</i>
The Council is established in furtherance of the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701), the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd), and Executive Order 13443, "Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation." The Council is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2.
(3) MISSION/FUNCTION <i>Describe the mission/function of the FAC</i>
The Council provides advice about wildlife and habitat conservation endeavors that (a) benefit wildlife resources; (b) encourage partnership among the public, the sporting conservation organizations, the states, Native American tribes, and the Federal government; and (c) benefit recreational hunting.
(4) POINTS OF VIEW <i>Based on understanding the purpose of the FAC, (a) describe the process that will be used to ensure the committee is balanced, and identify the categories (e.g. individual expertise or represented interests) from which candidates will be considered; (b) consider indentifying an anticipated relative distribution of candidates across the categories; and (c) explain how a determination was made to appoint any individuals as Special Government Employees or Representative members</i>
Council membership, balance, and individual perspective and expertise are in large part dictated by the Council charter itself. The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture appoint members, selecting from nominations received from the public. Calls for nominations are published in the Federal Register. The Council will consist of no more than 18 discretionary and 7 ex officio members. (a) Ex officio members: (1) Director, Fish and Wildlife Service or designated representative; (2) Director, Bureau of Land Management or designated representative; (3) Director, National Park Service or designated representative; (4) Chief, U.S. Forest Service or designated representative; (5) Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service or designated representative; (6) Administrator, Farm Service Agency or designated representative; and (7) Executive Director, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA).

(b) The remaining members will be selected from among national interest groups listed below. These members must be senior-level representatives of their organizations and/or have the authority to represent their designated constituency.

- (1) State fish and wildlife resource management agencies;
- (2) Wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations;
- (3) Game bird hunting organizations;
- (4) Waterfowl hunting organizations;
- (5) Big game hunting organizations;
- (6) Sportsmen and women community at large;
- (7) Archery, hunting and/or shooting sports industry
- (8) Hunting and shooting sports outreach and education organizations;
- (9) Tourism, outfitter and/or guide industries related to hunting and/or shooting sports;
- (10) Tribal resource management organizations.

(5) OTHER BALANCE FACTORS

List any other factors your agency identifies as important in achieving a balanced FAC

While individual nominations are reviewed within the context of requirements outlines in the Council's charter, the Secretaries make an effort (i.e., using data that the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation generates) to ensure the Council as a whole is representative of the nations's hunting and wildlife conservation.

(6) CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

Summarize the process intended to be used to identify candidates for the FAC, key resources expected to be tapped to identify candidates and the key persons (by position, not name) who will evaluate FAC balance. The summary should:

- (a) *describe the process*
- (b) *identify the agency key staff involved (by position, not name)*
- (c) *briefly describe how FAC vacancies, if any, will be handled by the agency; and*
- (d) *state the membership term limit of FAC members, if applicable*

In order to obtain members, the Department of the Interior announces a 30-day open call for nominations period in the Federal Register.

The DFO will develop a candidate list that will be evaluated by the Federal Ex Officio Members of the Council (for relevant expertise), A short list of the best qualified candidates will be developed and discussed with the Secretaries.

The resulting top candidates will be vetted by the White House Liaison and approved for appointment. Formal letters of invitation to serve on the Council will be extended by the Secretaries.

A vacancy on the Council be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

Members serve for 3-year terms.

(7) SUBCOMMITTEE BALANCE

Subcommittees subject to FACA should either state that the process for determining FAC member balance on subcommittees is the same as the process for the parent FAC, or describe how it is different*

**This is relevant to those agencies that require their subcommittees to follow all FACA requirements.*

Subcommittees are not subject to FACA because they are not providing advice directly to a Federal Officer of the Department of the Interior. All advice or work products go directly to the parent Committee for review, consideration and deliberation at a FAC meeting before being submitted to the Department of the Interior through the DFO.

(8) OTHER

Provide any additional information that supports the balance of the FAC

Not applicable.

(9) DATE PREPARED/UPDATED

Insert the actual date the Membership Balance Plan was initially prepared, along with the date(s) the Plan is updated

01/03/2012